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- Where can you find services that assist all victims of sexual assault?
- Where can you find programs that educate the public about sexual assault?
- Where can you find information about the Illinois Criminal Sexual Assault Law?

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**ICASA**

Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

# Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault —

A statewide network of community-based services providing women, children and men with counseling, advocacy and information on sexual assault and sexual abuse.

A statewide network of community-based services providing organizations, agencies, civic groups, and concerned individuals with public education and training about sexual assault and sexual abuse.

**Sexual Assault and Sexual Abuse** are terms that refer to rape, incest, attempted rape, unwanted touch: sexual contact without consent. Because these crimes are often misunderstood, ICASA wants you to know the facts about sexual assault and sexual abuse.

**ICASA** wants you to know that if you are a victim of those crimes or if you know someone who is, there are services in your community (or nearby) that can assist you. Trained staff and volunteers provide:

- 24-hour hotlines
- 24-hour advocacy during medical, police or criminal justice proceedings
- Individual and group counseling
- Information and referral
- Community education
- Training programs for other professionals
- Services for victims of sexual assault of special populations including children, people of color, men, the elderly and the mentally or physically disabled.

## Myths and Facts About Sexual Violence

Facts about sexual assault and abuse are often dismissed because many people have grown up with false beliefs — myths — about why a person is sexually violated and who is responsible for the crime. The facts are difficult

to accept because they challenge some basic and widely-held beliefs and values. By separating the myths from the facts, we can educate ourselves about the true nature of sexual violence.

**Myth:** *Strangers are the perpetrators of sexual assault.*

**Fact:** In nearly 60% of adult sexual assaults, the assailant knew the victim. In 1983, approximately 3,178 cases of child sexual assault and abuse were reported to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; 4,062 children were involved.

Studies indicate 80-85% of child victims are assaulted by someone they know.

**Myth:** *Sexual Assault is a crime of passion.*

**Fact:** Research shows that men who rape do so because they want to dominate and have power over another person. Sex is used as a weapon. Being violent in a sexual way makes the assailant feel better about himself.

**Myth:** *Sexual Assault happens to someone else — not me.*

**Fact:** According to the FBI, a woman is raped every seven minutes. There is no typical victim of sexual assault.

## **Statistics:**

- Nearly 80,000 U.S. women reported a rape to law enforcement officials in 1983.
- Only three out of ten rapes are estimated to be reported.
- One in four females, and one in ten males are sexually assaulted or sexually abused before the age of 18.
- Reports of child sexual abuse are up 200% since 1976.



The Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault was founded in 1977. Selected representatives from locally-based centers establish the policies of the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

## ICASA:

- Administers funding for statewide sexual assault services.
- Provides technical assistance to member programs
- Compiles statistics on the scope and nature of sexual assault
- Conducts research on sexual assault
- Expands public education
- Promotes unified positions on public policies affecting sexual assault victims
- Networks with state and national organizations in working to eliminate sexual assault.

In communities across the State of Illinois ICASA's member programs continue their dedication and commitment to sexual assault victims, their families and their friends. The Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault has the same goals as when it began in 1977:

- Quality services for victims of sexual assault
- Education, training and research on sexual assault issues
- Dedication to ending violence in the lives of women, children, and men.

As the Illinois centers and services have grown since 1977, so has the need to educate the public about sexual assault and abuse. ICASA has posters, booklets, and films which discuss these issues.

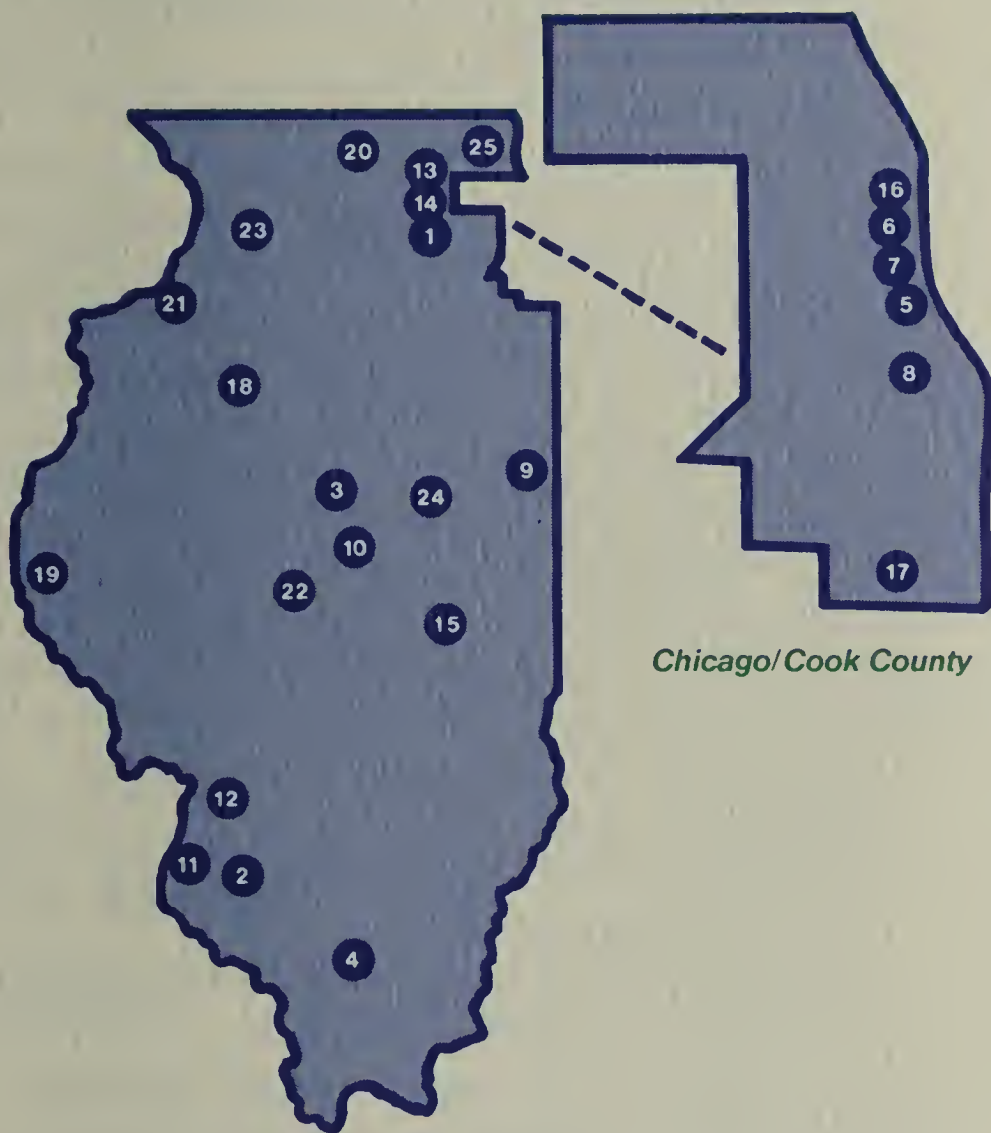
One resource available is a film produced by ICASA: *A Law for Victims*. The film, narrated by Betty Thomas, portrays the provocative changes in Illinois law regarding sexual

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assault and abuse. Using drama and documentation, the 24-minute film highlights the provisions of the new law and the reality of sexual violence.

If you want more information on the victim, the offender, and the law, please contact:

**Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault**  
527 East Capitol, Suite 100  
Springfield, Illinois 62701  
(217) 753-4117



For immediate help, call:

**1. AURORA**

Mutual Ground, Inc.  
312/897-0080

**2. BELLEVILLE**

Call for Help  
618/397-0963

**3. BLOOMINGTON**

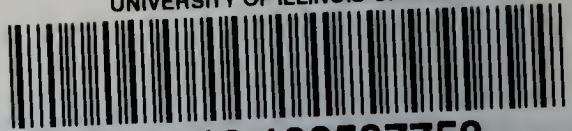
McLean County Rape  
Crisis Service  
309/827-4005

**4. CARBONDALE**

Rape Action Crisis  
Go-Out Team  
618/529-2324



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**CHICAGO**

- 5. Women's Services, Loop  
Center YWCA  
312/372-6600, Ext. 301
- 6. Rape Victim Advocates  
312/883-3839
- 7. Edgewater Uptown Community  
Mental Health Center  
312/769-0205
- 8. Harris YWCA  
312/955-3100

**9. DANVILLE**

A Woman's Alternative Shelter  
217/443-5566

**10. DECATUR**

DOVE, Inc.  
Rape Task Force  
217/423-2238

**11. EAST ST. LOUIS**

Volunteers of America  
618/398-7764

**12. EDWARDSVILLE**

Rape and Sexual Abuse Care  
Center  
618/692-2197

**13. ELGIN**

Community Crisis Center, Inc.  
312/697-2380

**14. LOMBARD**

DuPage Women Against Rape  
312/971-3927

**15. MATTOON-CHARLESTON**

Coles County Women Against  
Rape  
Charleston 217/345-2162  
Mattoon 217/235-4179

**16. MOUNT PROSPECT**

NorthWest Action Against  
Rape  
312/228-0990

**17. PARK FOREST**

YW C.A.R.E.S.  
312/748-5672

**18. PEORIA**

Tri-County WomenStrength  
309/674-4443

**19. QUINCY**

Quincy Area Network Against  
Domestic Abuse  
217/222-3069

**20. ROCKFORD**

Rockford Rape Counseling  
Center  
815/964-4044

**21. ROCK ISLAND**

Rape/Sexual Assault  
Counseling Program  
319/793-4784

**22. SPRINGFIELD**

Rape Information and  
Counseling Service  
217/753-8081

**23. STERLING**

COVE/YWCA  
815/625-0333

**24. URBANA**

A Woman's Fund, Inc.  
Rape Crisis Service  
217/384-4444

**25. WAUKEGAN**

Lake County Council  
Against Sexual Assault  
312/872-7799

**ICASA**

Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
527 East Capitol, Suite 100  
Springfield, Illinois 62701 (217) 753-4117

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